

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Following the amendments, claims 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22 and 23 are pending in the application, with claims 5, 17 and 18 being in independent format.

Claims 7, 19, 21, 24 and 25 have been cancelled from the application. It is urged that none of the amendments constitute new matter or raise new issues for consideration.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

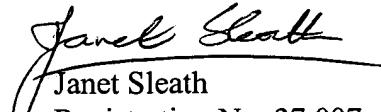
Claims 19, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite. While applicants strenuously disagree with the Examiner's position and do not acquiesce in this rejection, claims 19, 24 and 25 have been cancelled from the application in order to expedite the issuance of claims that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable.

It is thus submitted that this rejection of the claims may be properly withdrawn.

Applicants note that the Examiner has stated that claims 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22 and 23 are allowable. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any further concerns regarding the subject patent application, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at: 206.382.1191.

Respectfully submitted,


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